

REMARKS

Claims 1-46 are pending in this application. In the non-final Office action mailed 07/03/2002, the Examiner allowed claims 7-17, 21-26, and 28-46.

To advance this application to issue, Applicant has cancelled claims 1-6 and 18-20. Applicant amends claim 11 to overcome the objection relevant to this claim, and also submits amended drawings, and adds a sentence in one paragraph of the specification, that identify the central pin.

In addition, Applicant has amended claim 27 to overcome the objection, and also to improve clarity. Applicant has amended other claims, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 21, 22, 25, 28, 29, 30, 33, 34, 35, 39, 40, 41, 42, 45 and 46, also to improve clarity, and claim 37 to correct a typographical error.

Upon entry of the amendments herein, claims 7-17 and 21-46 remain pending in this application.

Correction of Priority Claims

Applicant amends herein the claim to priority to claim priority only to the two most recently filed prior U.S. patent applications. It is believe that this adequately corrects the issues raised in numbered paragraphs 2-4 of the Office action mailed 07/03/2002.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the lengthy abstract and to a number of specific informalities (see paragraphs 5-8 of Office action).

In paragraph 9 of the Office action, the Examiner also has objected to the specification as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the “central pin” mentioned in claim 11. It is noted that “central pin” is found in independent claims 21, 28 and 40 as well as in claim 11. The “central pin” element is herewith identified in amended Figures 1, 2, 4, 5, 12 and 13 by the number “25”. The “central pin” is supported by the original claim language, and is further supported by use of the same term in previous applications which are incorporated by reference. As one example of

the latter, U.S. patent application serial number 08/681,627, now U.S. Patent number 5,720,218, issued February 24, 1998, referring to its Figure 1, teaches "[T]he concave hemisphere 4 has a concentric central pin 9 . . . ". Applicant also has added a sentence to this effect at the end of the amended paragraph that begins on line 7 of page 22. This sentence also clarifies terminology pertaining to the perforating tube filter.

Entry of the above-referenced added sentence and the amended figures that include the number "25" to indicate the "central pin" is respectfully requested. No new matter is added with these amendments.

Objections to the Drawings

Replacement drawing sheets are provided herein and their approval and entry are respectfully requested. In addition to the addition of the number "25" to indicate the "central pin," discussed immediately above, the following amendments to the drawings are made. The latter correspond to and are provided to overcome the objections to the drawings in paragraph 11 of the Office action:

- a. In Figure 1, the view line "A-A" has been changed to "2-2."
- b. In Figure 2, the expression "VISTA A-A" is deleted.
- c. In Figure 4, the view line "A-A" is changed to "5-5."
- d. In Figure 5, the expression "VISTA A-A" is deleted.
- e. In Figures 6 and 7, "Device 7" is labelled.
- f. In Figure 6, the expression "DETAIL A" is deleted.
- g. In Figure 7, the view line "DETAIL A" is changed to "6."
- h. In Figure 8, the view line "B-B" is changed to "9."
- i. In Figure 9, the expression "CUT BB" is deleted.

Also, although paragraph 10 of the Office action indicated that the application was filed with informal drawings acceptable for examination purposes only, it is believed that the presently provided drawings are suitable as formal drawings. If this is not the case, notification of this requirement is respectfully requested.

Objection(s) to the Claim(s)

Claim 27 stands objected to because a transitional phrase, such as “wherein,” appeared to be missing in line 1 before the words “channel means.” Applicant has added “wherein” and also has made other changes to this claim, and to other claims, to improve claim clarity (see next section).

Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested, and withdrawal of this ground of objection is respectfully requested.

Remarks Regarding Amendments to Allowed Claims

Claims 7-17, 21-26 and 28-46 stand allowed. In paragraph 7 of the Office action the Patent Office requested Applicant’s cooperation in “correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.” In reviewing the allowed claims, the current Attorney for Applicant, who is not the attorney who originally filed these claims, identified a number of places where clarity could be improved. While not necessarily amounting to correcting an error, Applicant hereby submits the amendments herein in claims 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 21, 22, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 33, 34, 35, 39, 40, 41, 42, 45 and 46, in order to improve the clarity of these claims. Claim 37 is amended to correct a typographical error. No new matter is added to these claims by such amendments, and these amendments are not made in response to a rejection.

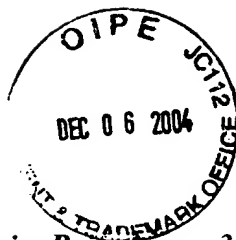
Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested. Applicant encourages the Examiner to call the undersigned should the Examiner have any questions about these amendments, or to suggest alternative language.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

Claims 1-6 and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out what is included or excluded by the claim language.

To address this rejection, Applicant herewith cancels claims 1-6 and 18 without prejudice, at a minimum, with regard to subject matter in any allowed claim of this or a related patent

application.



Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by an EPO publication of the inventor, EP 0757896.

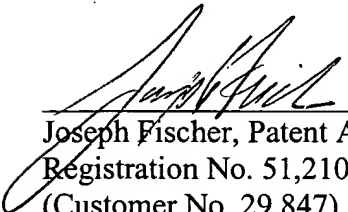
To address this rejection, Applicant herewith cancels claims 19 and 20 without prejudice, at a minimum, with regard to subject matter in any allowed claim of this or a related patent application.

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All claims having either been placed in condition for allowance or cancelled, expedited passage of this case to issuance is respectfully solicited.

The undersigned offers to participate in a telephonic or an in-person interview with the Examiner to clarify any issues in order to advance this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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